

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

The Island County Council of Governments met in Regular Session on April 27, 2011 in the Commissioners' Hearing Room (Room # 102B), Annex Building, 1 N.E. 6th Street, Coupeville, Washington. The meeting was called to order by Chair Nancy Conard at 9:04 a.m.

Members Present: Nancy Conard, Mayor, Town of Coupeville
Angie Homola, Island County Commissioner
Helen Price Johnson, Island County Commissioner
Kelly Emerson, Island County Commissioner
Paul Samuelson, Mayor, City of Langley
Jim Slowik, Mayor, City of Oak Harbor
Benye Weber, Commissioner, Coupeville Port District
Curt Gordon, Commissioner, South Whidbey Port District

Guests: Walt Blackford, Puget Sound Energy
Cathy Niuro, United Way
Cheryn Weiser, Island County Senior Services
Morgan Schniedler, Puget Sound Partnership
Terry Williams, Tulalip Tribe
Kent Rosen, Tulalip Tribe
Ron Nelson, Island County Economic Development Council

Also Present: Scott Dudley, Councilmember, City of Oak Harbor
Jennifer Meyer, Community Planning & Liaison Officer, NASWI
Community members

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to replace the word "concluded" with the word "expressed" in the second paragraph under "Approval of Minutes". By unanimous motion the March 23, 2011 minutes were approved as amended.

SUSTAINABLE WHIDBEY COALITION GREEN SEAL PROGRAM

This item was moved to a later date.

VOLUNTEER CENTER

Cheryn Weiser, Executive Director of Island County Senior Services; Cathy Niiro, Executive Director of United Way; and Walt Blackford, Puget Sound Energy discussed the need for a centralized volunteer directory to serve those agencies that are looking for volunteers as well as those looking to volunteer. After reviewing volunteer coordination efforts across the country, the result was the concept of a Volunteer Center which would act as a hub. See attached Exhibit A for a working draft of the Volunteer Center Concept.

Ms. Niiro spoke on the need to include the military and the need to be on-line with the center. She reviewed the program goals. Auspice is an issue that has yet to be resolved.

Mr. Blackford announced PSE's support of a Volunteer Fair with the goal of creating the groundwork for the Volunteer Center. It is possible that two fairs would be necessary for the island; one in Oak Harbor in October and the other at south island next spring. Then, once the Volunteer Center is in place, the fairs would be discontinued.

Discussion continued on: funding to provide coordination support of the Volunteer Center; consideration of expanding the concept to be one-stop shopping for people and services resources (Community Resource Center); the need to be aware of the rules and regulations that govern possible agencies; and the reality that with more cuts in budgets, volunteers will be needed to make up the difference.

Ms. Weiser discussed the need of COG support of the Volunteer Center concept in order to pursue discussion with other possible agencies.

By unanimous motion, Chair Conard will write a letter of COG support for the Volunteer Center concept.

LOCAL INTEGRATING ORGANIZATION (LIO) PROPOSAL FOR PUGET SOUND PARTNERSHIP

Morgan Schniedler of Puget Sound Partnership introduced Terry Williams and Kent Rosen from the Tulalip Tribe. See attached Exhibit B, LIO Draft Proposal, supplied by Ms. Schniedler.

Ms. Schniedler introduced the concept of an LIO. Mr. Williams provided input on an existing LIO in San Juan County and how salmon recovery is a priority of the tribe. He discussed actions that have been done at a Federal and international (Canada) level. The positive of including the tribes includes funding sources. Be sure to invite all stakeholders – businesses, conservation groups, governments and tribes to be part of the organization.

Discussion continued on the proposed committees and their structure. The following suggestions were made for the Policy Development Committee:

- Include a Marine based company, for example Penn Cove Shellfish, instead of the EDC representative
- Add Ports to the membership
- RTPO is a good example of membership make up
- Need more business representation

Make up of the Executive Committee looks good. COG will continue to work on this at the next meeting.

ISLAND COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL QUARTERLY UPDATE

Island County Economic Development Council Executive Director Ron Nelson updated the council on local economic indicators including: unemployment, sales tax rates, taxable retail sales and the labor market. He cautioned that it is easier to keep a business than it is to recruit a new business. Mr. Nelson's presentation is attached as Exhibit C.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHER

By unanimous motion a voucher in the amount of \$1,343.75 was approved as presented, in payment to Britt Conn, Sustainable Whidbey Coalition Coordinator. See attached Exhibit D of voucher.

OTHER ITEMS OF MUTUAL CONCERN

Linda Richards and Jackie Henderson discussed the revision to the Affordable Housing Interlocal Agreement. It has been reviewed by Island County's Prosecuting Attorney. This item will be on the May 25th COG Agenda.

Commissioner Gordon requested that a "No Wake Zone" sign be posted in the southern lakes until the water level returns to normal.

IDENTIFY ISSUES FOR NEXT MEETING

For May 25th meeting:

- Update reports from EDC Fund recipients and Elaine Marlow:
 - Freeland Sewer Phase 1
 - Oak Harbor Pioneer Way
 - South Whidbey Port District

COG members will receive copies of original grants prior to meeting for review.

- Tourism update
- Affordable Housing Agreement
- LIO Committee structure and members

It was suggested that the May 25th RTPO Meeting start at a later time in order to accommodate the expanded COG Agenda. Chair Conard will make that request.

Chair Conard reminded members that the June 22nd COG meeting is cancelled.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

Dated this 25th day of May, 2011.



APPROVED